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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/576,574	07/25/2008	Rikuro Obara	25779K-026100US	4119
20350 7590 05/02/2011 KILPATRICK TOWNSEND & STOCKTON LLP TWO EMBARCADERO CENTER EIGHTH FLOOR SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111-3834				
EXAMINER HANNON, THOMAS R				
ART UNIT 3656		PAPER NUMBER		
NOTIFICATION DATE 05/02/2011		DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/576,574

Applicant(s)

OBARA, RIKURO

Examiner

Thomas R. Hannon

Art Unit

3656

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 July 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 7-9, 12-18, 22-24 and 27-30 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 4, 10, 11, 19, 25 and 26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5, 6, 20 and 21 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 April 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/17/10 3/20/09
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 4, 10, 11, 19, 25, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Horiuchi et al. US 2003/0184175.

With respect to claim 4, Horiuchi discloses a fluid dynamic bearing mechanism comprising: a cylindrical bearing case (21, 70); a stepped cylindrical hole formed in the bearing case, the cylindrical hole having a large diameter part (71), a small diameter part (64) and a first step portion formed at the junction of the large diameter part and the small diameter part; an end plate (22) that seals one end of the bearing case to form a bearing housing; a stepped shaft (30) inserted in the bearing housing, the shaft having a large diameter part (32) and a small diameter part (33) and a second step portion formed at the junction of the large diameter part and the small diameter part; a first dynamic pressure groove formed on the outer circumferential surface of either the large diameter part of the cylindrical hole or the large diameter part of the stepped shaft; a second dynamic pressure groove formed on the outer circumferential surface of either the small diameter part of the cylindrical hole or the small diameter part of the stepped shaft; a third dynamic pressure groove formed on either the first step portion or the second step portion (paragraph [0028]); and lubricating oil filled in small gaps formed between facing surfaces adjacent to the first dynamic pressure groove, the second dynamic pressure groove, and the third dynamic pressure groove.

With respect to claim 11, Horiuchi discloses a fluid dynamic bearing mechanism comprising: a cylindrical bearing case (21, 70); a stepped cylindrical hole formed in the bearing case, the cylindrical hole having a large diameter part (71), a small diameter part (64) and an expanded diameter part (62), the expanded diameter part having a step part; an end plate (22) that seals one end of the bearing case to form a bearing housing; a stepped shaft (30) inserted in the bearing housing, the shaft having a large diameter part (32) and a small diameter part (33); a thrust ring (34) fit on the stepped shaft, the thrust ring being received into the expanded diameter part; a first dynamic pressure groove formed on the outer circumferential surface of either the large diameter part of the cylindrical hole or the large diameter part of the stepped shaft; a second dynamic pressure groove formed on the outer circumferential surface of either the small diameter part of the cylindrical hole or the small diameter part of the stepped shaft; a third dynamic pressure groove formed on either an inner surface of the end plate or a bottom surface of the thrust ring; a fourth dynamic pressure groove formed on either the step part or the top surface of the thrust ring facing the step part (paragraph [0028]); and lubricating oil filled in small gaps formed between facing surfaces adjacent to the first dynamic pressure groove, the second dynamic pressure groove, the third dynamic pressure groove and the fourth dynamic pressure groove.

With respect to claim 11, Horiuchi shows in Figure 2, a widened section on the upper portion of the inner surface of the sleeve 70, which inherently forms a widened seal part.

With respect to claims 19, 25 and 26, Horiuchi discloses the fluid dynamic bearing mechanism in a hard disc drive motor.

Claims 1-3, 7-9, 12-18, 22-24 and 27-30 are allowed.

Claims 5, 6, 20, and 21 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As allowable subject matter has been indicated, applicant's reply must either comply with all formal requirements or specifically traverse each requirement not complied with. See 37 CFR 1.111(b) and MPEP § 707.07(a).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas R. Hannon whose telephone number is (571) 272-7104. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday (8:30-7:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard WL Ridley can be reached on (571) 272-6917. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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/Thomas R. Hannon/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3656